

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 17, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 14-16, 20, 22 and 24 - 26 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Townsend. Claims 17-19, 21 and 23 were rejected under 103(a) as being obvious over Townsend. Claim 22 was rejected under 103(a) as being obvious over Townsend in view of Reinstein et al. Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 103(a) as being obvious over Townsend in view of Barrington.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the examiner indicated that claim 27 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 27 depended directly from independent claim 14, and claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of claims 14 and 27, as new claim 31. Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 31 is in allowable form.

Previously withdrawn claims 1-13 and 28 have been cancelled from the present application without prejudice as to the filing of a divisional application with claims of a similar scope.

Independent claim 14 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. As now set forth in claim 14, it is clear that the claimed invention is an assembly comprising separated and aligned hair extensions, each having a separate connecting element. The assembly allows the simultaneous and proper application of all the extensions in one application step. The adhesive tape is used only as a support for the extensions onto the hair in the application step but not as the fixing/connecting element for the extension itself onto the hair.

The patent to Townsend is distinguishable in that the adhesive face of the support tape is used to secure the extension to the head hair the entire time that the extension is fixed to the head hair. The extensions do not each have a separate connecting element, as required by claim 14, which fixes the extension to the head hair, not an adhesive face that receives the connecting elements.

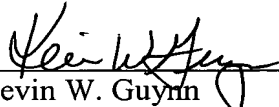
Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claim 14, and each of its dependent claims, is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and are allowable.

Independent claims 29 and 30 were also amended to clarify the invention, in a manner similar to that as in claim 14. As mentioned above, Townsend is distinguishable in that the adhesive face of the support tape is used to secure the extension to the head hair the entire time that the extension is fixed to the head hair. The extensions do not each have a separate connecting element, as required by claim 14, which fixes the extension to the head hair, not an adhesive face that receives the connecting elements. Barrington teaches the separate attachment of individual extensions, and does not teach to utilize a support tape to hold the extensions on the head hair, temporarily in an aligned and substantially parallel manner, with the extensions actually being fixed to the head hair with individual connecting elements, as claimed. Thus, even a combination of Townsend and Barrington would fall short of teaching the requirements of claims 29 and 30. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 29 and 30 are also allowable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and argument, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the application under consideration are allowable, and applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate all claims as allowed and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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